

Jean's letter
Sent to Jean from the Estate of Blanche (Mrs. Russell
Matthias)

EL ROBLAR HOTEL

OJAI, CALIFORNIA

Mrs. F. J. Barrington, Prop.

Aug. 3 '45.

about
Krishna

Dearest Blanche:

I have waited until the end before
writing you, and now this is my last
day at Ojai - I have been here about
12 days. I had hoped and planned to
come - and put off my normal
much-urged family vacation at Lake
Tahoe in order to do this instead -
and confess your word of encouragement
prompted me to make the real effort -
The hotel had no place at first -
but I wired Mrs. Rajagopal +
she secured a room for me here.
She + Mrs. Rajagopal have been
away the entire time - and I know
no one here - except Krishnaji
who was the soul of kindness as
you shall see. But I thought a
book or 2 - + needless to ~~say~~ say
had plenty to occupy my mind -
I have been extremely tired - +

happy to thought.

except for the great mental & emotional tension involved in meeting Krishnaji - I have rested some - & enjoyed the hot dry air. I wish you had been here - it would have been so nice.

Now to report.

1st about Krishnaji:-

I have never seen him in such transcendent form - so strong - so serene - so gay - so quiet. The talks were astounding in their vitality - precision - and force. And at the last talk he gave us a picture of the realization of Thought in the realms of Truth which for sheer poetry and splendor is unequalled in any human utterance I know.

EL ROBLAR HOTEL

OJAI, CALIFORNIA

Mrs. F. J. Barrington, Prop.

Through the expressions of his face -
through his eyes which looked neither
out nor in but were themselves
in the vision we were given
a glimpse of things. His
manner is extraordinary -
his play - his humor - his
swift & pliable lovable being
in the most purified sense. I
am sure you will be glad to
hear this - & to know that
many people here at the Hotel felt
that the audience was feeling
things more than usual. I saw
their faces & think so too - &
then there were 1 or 2 young men
who seemed to be closer to his
thought than usual. So that is
all good. His view of the world
today is what you might expect -
but it does not alter his serenity

I think he will be going to India as soon as
 he can. He works excessively hard - &
 with people a lot of the time.
 about myself. I laid my whole messy
 struggle in his patient hands. for it
 has been a struggle I Blanche, so acute
 that my mind & body have been too
 sorely taxed - although the art goes on well -
 He told me he had seen it all along - &
 said that I would either swallow the demon
 or be swallowed by it - Then in the intensity
 of my feeling he said that I would "see".
 I had 4 interviews with him - & he asked
 me to dinner once - I wept & tried &
 failed - & at the end drove him down
 the road for his afternoon walk & said
 goodby - & he got out & walked away -
 with the lovely glimmering laughter -
 that was neither sorry for me nor
 laughed at me. but I knew. But
 I am not afraid, Blanche, and I am
 glad I came & not ashamed to have
 spoken of my life to him - for what
 difference to the sea does a little
 impurity make? Perhaps as he said -
 the very struggle all will be swept
 away for me - & I shall be free.
 Dearest Blanche I do hope Russell
 is better & that you are well. & that
 we may meet even for an instant in N.Y.
 really at this time would be no art at all. I can.

I feel that with even a little realization the creative
 possibilities would be immense. What is
 with a complete

He said 2 good things to me -
 1 - Be happy -
 2 - that I should make a mistake every day -
 but to really feel it out.

MRS. RUSSELL MATTHIAS
1000 MASON ST.
SAN FRANCISCO 8, CALIFORNIA

June 14th 1952.

Dearest Jean,
My short visit with you lingers like a fragrance in my memory. You are such a satisfying and rare person. I do wish I could more often see you.

Have you received a notice of 12 Talks by Krishnamurti just published?

We are leaving on Monday morning for a short trip to ~~km~~ the north-Redwood Highway etc. I do hope to be home before you visit the Matisse Show. We expect to be away about two weeks. Not longer.

I am enclosing map and directions for your way here. So many people like the Maurice Hotel. It is on Sutter St. near Larkin I think. Anyway it isn't too far from Van Ness. It is moderate in price and they will take care of your car. Flavia always stays there. I have marked the map with blue cross lines across the red lines of the map-like this. ~~-----~~
When you get to San Bruno you will see a sign pointing to the overhead route which will take you off the "Free way". Follow that road which will read San Bruno Ave. ~~XXX~~ until you come to the end of it-a mile or so-then turn right and pass the race track. Almost at once you will see a sign pointing to the National cemetery. That is a left turn and goes past the cemetery. Turn with the road right-around the cemetery and continue straight on until you come to Golden Gate Park. You will be on 19th St all the way to the Park. Follow #1 and it will lead you through the park. In this way you will avoid all the down-town traffic. It is a lovely drive.

Your Alan Watt book should reach you in time for you to read it before he lectures. The book stores were sold out, but promised to send a copy in time for you to read it before the 20th.

How I love your house- and how exciting your work-
O'Keefe
Georgia stayed with us until Wed. She is wonderful-

Love to your mother and to you
Devotedly

Blanche

Sept.7th 1957.

Dearest Jean,

The reason I have not written before this regarding your San Francisco talk on India-Dorothy Erskine who was the "contact man" between the lecture-hall group and myself is still out of town. I imagine she will be back any day now, but of course, I do not know. She knows the hall and the Sec. and the owner, while I know you.

Under all the circumstances, perhaps you better accept the Circle Theatre engagement as the situation here is involved for the moment. As long as you are coming to Oakland in Jan. why not plan to speak in San Francisco at the same time, thus saving yourself two trips here?

I am sorry to miss Mrs. Wilson's talk at the Century Club. She is one of the most popular members. I had much rather hear you tell of your experiences. I am eager for that. If Dorothy returns before we leave, I'll talk with her again and either call or write you at once. I have been disturbed at the delay in setting a definite date. Awfully difficult for you to be dangling in mid-air. I am sorry, dear Jean.

Our trip to Utah is to start Sept. 21st weather permitting. We may be gone a month. Maybe not so long as my eyes are not very good right now, and the doctor is not certain about my being away for too long a time.

Tell Radha I miss her and her darlings. Give them our love. Love to you also, and to your mother.

I'll write again before I leave or telephone-

Blanche

I suppose you know that Mr. Rabow died?



SAN YSIDRO RANCH

MONTECITO, SANTA BARBARA

CALIFORNIA

Feb. 12, 1958

Dearest Jean,

From Louise Mendelsohn
and Louise Hilbert I have received
letters, glowing with delight
about your Century Club Talk.
Both are artists. Both said
that you saw India through
the eyes of an artist. Louise H.
called it a "never to be forgotten
experience". I was so sorry I
couldn't be there! I knew it
would be beautiful and
wonderful. Thank you dear
Jean, for sharing India
with my friends and fellow
club members.

We hope to leave them

Tomorrow and to arrive in
San Francisco sometime Friday.
I'll write again from there.

Did Louise Helbert tell you
that her father's name was Kellogg?
She was so eager to know you.
She likes your work so much.

I am missing Rosalind
as she is with Radha while I
am here. Mina Porter came
for luncheon one day last week.
She knew "Lady Emily" author of
"Candles in the Sun" and they are
having a vivid correspondence
about the book.

Now to pack -

Love to your mother and to
you - ~~and~~ I gain dear Jean, thank
you - thank you -

Devotedly
Blanche.

Mrs. Russell J. Matthias

1000 Mason Street, San Francisco, California 94108

Dec. 20 - 67.

Dearest Jean and Jim,

So sorry to know that
Jim has been in hospital. We hope
he is well again. I am glad you
are deciding to stay in the valley for
a time. We'll talk of other places
when you are here.

Jan. 10th is Robin's
birthday. Ray Caldwell, Pete
Dadiani (Painter - show in Mar, at
Legion) and Wm. Marchant S.J.

Mrs. Russell J. Matthias

1000 Mason Street, San Francisco, California 94108

are dining with us that night.
It would be wonderful if
you could join us? Please.
Sad about Martin — The
world is sad.

a Peaceful 1968-

Much love to you both
for Russell and
Blanche.

1000 Mason
SF. 94108

September 29, 1971

Dear Jean,

Several times I have tried to call you up, but never seem to get an answer. I love my box of sweet-smelling herbs. They are with my prettiest nighties, and I like myself when I put on a fresh nightie. Also, you have been so kind in calling up and inquiring how I am. I thought of Jim on his birthday, and was disappointed that you weren't here so we could celebrate. But at that time, although I tried to reach you by telephone, my eyes were too bothersome to attempt letter-writing. Don't imagine I'm doing this one...I have someone who is helping me. Aren't I lucky.

I'm wondering about ~~your~~ painting--how is it going? I long to see some of your latest works.

I don't remember whether you have met Edward Groth. His book has been accepted and I hope will be published by Christmas. He really is an interesting old man. Also, I want to tell you about a friend of mine I do wish you would contact sometime when you are in Carmel. Her name is Ellen V.V. Brown, and she is staying in Carmel. She's staying with a friend of hers by the name of Jo Jordan, who is the poetry editor of the Pine Cone. I do not know Mrs. Jordan, but Ellen is a very rare person. Her telephone is: 408-624-2708. I have spoken to her about you and Jim.

October 25, 1911

Dear Sir,

Tevis
Lyon

I have been thinking of you very much lately, and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well and happy. I have been very busy lately, but I have managed to find some time to write to you. I have been thinking of you very much lately, and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well and happy. I have been very busy lately, but I have managed to find some time to write to you. I have been thinking of you very much lately, and wondering how you are getting on. I hope you are well and happy. I have been very busy lately, but I have managed to find some time to write to you.

Rosalind is in Europe, and is having a great time. I hear nothing from Krishneji except through others. They say he looks very well, and is more lucid and radiant than ever.

I still hope to go to Carmel and, of course, one of the reasons would be to see you both. I ~~miss you~~ missed you on our birthday.

Much love from Russell and

Blanche.

October 6, 1981

Dear Jean,

Thank you so much for your letter. I love knowing how your work goes. I am still hoping to go to Carmel for at least a week. One of my friends promises to drive me there. Of course I shall let you know, and perhaps in the bright light of the valley I may be able to see some of your work, and to have Jim explain his latest book to me. I do hope you will see Mrs. Brown--she's such a very rare person.

I frequently speak with Radha, and she has asked about you. Her oldest daughter is going to St. John's College in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Does it seem possible?

Tell Jim I forgive him for not coming here for his birthday, because next July 16th I am counting on you both coming here for our birthday.

No recent news from Krishneji, but I hope all goes well. I think he will be here perhaps in the spring.

Much love to you both

Blanche.

Mrs. Russell J. Matthias
1000 Mason Street, San Francisco, California 94108

September 8, 1972

Dear Jean,

Russell said, "Of course you were right to use his name," if it will be of any help to you ~~and~~ Jim. I have one complaint with the Press Club...they aren't too nice to the girls. Don't seem to want us as members. Although Bee Roos was a member when she lived here, and she took me to the Press Club for luncheon a few times. As I remember we were the only women in the place. Perhaps they are more lenient now. We are hoping that membership in this club will bring you and Jim ~~XXXX~~ more frequently to San Francisco.

I am enclosing something unwritten by your mother, which I found recently in an old copy of The Atlantic Monthly. You may not have this in your files. I was so surprised to find it, and thought right away of you.

At the moment we are both fine, and enjoying life and the wonderful summer weather. I heard a broadcast this morning which said that on September 22nd we were due for six days of incredibly hot weather, so let's watch it!

Lots of love,
Russell & Blanche _{ms}

November 15, 1971

Dear Jim,

I wish I had a dog to draw. I asked Russell to pose, but he refused. I don't quite understand...is this to be part of a book for children, or is this to be the complete idea? I'd like to buy some for Christmas gifts for some of my friends' children. It's also amusing and gay and possible.

I do wish you and Jean lived closer. We often think how we'd like to exchange happenings with you. I wonder if you heard Judith Anderson in the Forest Theatre, and if she was really as wonderful as she used to be.

We both send love to you, and love to your Jean.

Russell and Blanche

Mrs. Russell Matthias
1000 Mason
San Francisco CA 94108



Mr. James Dickie
Story Road
Carmel Valley, California 93924

July 18, 1973

Dearest Jean:

What a beautiful thought! I was quite overcome to realize you were giving me one of your new abstract drypoint etchings. We have transposed the words but never mind. My eyes do not take it in thoroughly but enough to give me deep pleasure and appreciation. I'm going to keep it in my room because it is done by my "twin". Really, Jean, I am so touched and so grateful. Thank you in all the ways.

When are you and Jim coming to see us? Your old hotel has now become quite magnificent, but I still think you will enjoy the Metropolitan Club for a short sojourn.

I suppose you are deeply involved in the Bach Festival. Mrs. De Martini sent me an enchanting cook book called "Bach's Lunch" published by The Junior Committee to benefit the Cleveland Orchestra so from Carmel I received the beautiful etching, the exciting cook book and from another friend a box of charming stationery. All my needs taken care of.

I had a very nice letter from Krishna Kirnamurti from England describing the garden and the life there. He said he would see me when he returns to America, but he did not say just when that would be. I am so glad you heard that one lecture.

Again, dear Jean, many, many thanks and love to you both in which Russell joins.

Blanche

April 2, 1975

Dear Jean,

The surprise box of lemons, potholders, tea towels, beautiful leaves, etc., arrived a few minutes ago and we had great excitement opening it. The fragrance of the lemons is intoxicating. Many, many thanks.

I missed you very much especially the first day after you left. I love remembering our visit and our talks and the Krishnaji experience.

Rosalind is here at the moment and asked about you and Jim. I wish you were here now, too. It would be lovely to have you both.

Thank you for your letter which came so promptly and pleased me for that reason and others, and thank you for the wonderful surprise box.

Much love to you both,

Blanchew

P.S. I gave Krishnaji your letter. He tucked it in his pocket and said nothing.

Mrs. Russell J. Matthias
1000 Mason Street, San Francisco, California 94108

April 29, 1975

Dear Jean,

Please forgive me for not returning
the enclosed article sooner. I wanted
to write you a note at the same
time I returned it. I found it
most interesting — especially the part
marked with a pencil. Did you mark
it or did someone else.

Do you remember the two pictures
of Krishnamurti by Weston that

you sent me a few years ago? Recently when Krishnaji was here and Mrs Zimbalist also they saw those two photographs, and Mrs. Z. was most enthused. She asked for a reproduction of them, which I had made and gave to her. Krishnaji called me up Sunday to say goodbye, as he was leaving for England, and Mrs. Zimbalist asked if those two photographs could be reproduced in a contemplated book. I believe she would have to have permission from Brett Weston. Do you know how to reach him? If he's in Carmel, could you ask him if permission is necessary.

Mrs. Russell J. Matthias
1000 Mason Street, San Francisco, California 94108

I loved your last letter telling about Tor House. I wished I might have been there. In your letter you did not mention Jim's health, so I am taking it it is as good or even better than it was.

I am thinking of your own exhibition and hoping to be able to see it.

Much love to you & Jim,

Blanche^{ng}

Mrs. Russell Matthias
1000 Mason Street
San Francisco, California 94108

September 15, 1976

Dear Jean and Jim:

*It is hard for me to believe that I have made
arrangements to stay at the Sandpiper Inn in Carmel
with Kay Caldwell from September 27 until October 2.
And I do hope there will be a chance to see you both
while I am there.*

Forgive a hasty note sent with love,

Blanche *nu*

BCM:nu

Mrs. Russell J. Matthias
1000 Mason Street, San Francisco, California 94108

October 6, 1976

Dear Jean and Jim:

Kay and I spoke so many times about our lovely luncheon and visit with you. It was one of the high spots of our visit to Carmel. I always love being with you no matter where we are but it seemed particularly delightful in your beautiful studio and home, and such a good luncheon. And good conversation.

The date of the Jeffers-Matthias picture is July 1940 and, as I told you, it was taken by Russell at our home in the Highlands and on the day that Una gave her talk on George Moore.

The day after seeing you I had an unfortunate thing happen and so I did not try to contact you again before leaving Carmel. The retina of my eye became detached and also the eye hemorrhaged. So I am spending a few weeks in
Cal.

bed with all the No. One doctors in attendance, trying to avoid an operation. I am so glad that I had the day with you before this happened.

Thank you both so much for the perfect day. I know you will here from Kay.

Much love,

Bleedie
nw

BCM:nw

Mrs. Russell J. Matthias
1000 Mason Street, San Francisco, California 94108

October 21, 1976

Dear Mrs. Dickie:

Mrs. Matthias asked me to write and thank you for your nice letter of October 20. Unfortunately, an eye operation could not be avoided and on October 12 the cataract was removed from her left eye as the doctors decided not to operate on the right eye, the one with the detached retina and hemorrhage. So we are now all very hopeful that she will have a little sight at least in the left eye. She already has some, but not very much, I am sorry to report. After two or three days in the hospital, she came home and since then has had nurses around the clock. She is having the best of care in every way and really is doing very well. She is supposed to be quiet and not have visitors or telephone conversations. So please do not worry too much as she wouldn't want you to.

I am looking forward to reading your book aloud so send it along when you have a few chapters.

Sincerely,
Nancy Weston
Secretary

September 5 '1977

Dear Blanche:

The Jeffers book has been here for a few days, so I have had time to look into it - renewing acquaintance with the poems, and reading a bit of the commentary.

I suppose Brophy is the commentator, and I must say I have been greatly enlightened by his insights - although I am grateful, mostly, for his historical erudition - sources etc.

Sometimes I agree with Tenny Clapp, that it is best just to read the poems - & forget the

²/₇ critics + apologists. I always felt
that way myself until I heard Dr.
Edgar Wind (in New York) expound
on the Sistine Chapel, and my
eyes were opened.

In any case, I am most grateful
for this latest addition to our Jeffers
Library which got depleted through
the years. (I used to have the
original printing of Dear Judas).

It is so like you to think of
me in this way + I appreciate it.

I know you have heard from
Jim about his birthday card. He
loved it.

Well, judging from recent violent
events in S.F., + down here at Salinas -
(Nostra Familia ^{murders}) Jeffers was right.
Much love, & thanks from Jean.

P.O. Box 25
Carmel Valley
California 93924

March 17, 1978

Dearest Blanche:

It is such a beautiful day here; we wish you could spend a few moments at Story Road to sniff the fragrance of grasses, herbs and opening buds.

Traces of recent storms remain, however, and we had our share of damage to driveway and garage as the ravine above us flooded and overflowed.

Now, the Easter season is here, and still we have not been able to accomplish that trip north and the ride up to 903 to visit with you. Rosalind telephoned after the New Year asking if we planned to be in San Francisco about now, so perhaps you will be seeing her before long. Our cousins, too, from Irvine - he is head of the philosophy department there - hoped we could manage to meet them in San Francisco the end of next week, but alas, all these delightful prospects are dim indeed. Dr. Melden, by the way, has a new book published by Oxford : Rights and Persons, which, for a philosophical treatise, is not too hard for the layman to read - quite fascinating in fact.

Jim has been held here to finish a commission to illustrate a dog story set during the Second World War - but in Carmel as setting. He did some lovely drawings.

As for my "book", it is 3/4 on the way after five revisions, so should be somewhat improved! Kay Caldwell has the Xerox with a view of approaching someone at the University Press. There was a chapter relating a conversation between my mother and Robert Frost that I deleted from the mss. for reasons of continuity, and Poetry Magazine in Chicago wants to read it. I also asked the New Yorker. If either gives their approval, I'll let you know.

Jim and I speak of you so often, and neither of us feel that a letter such as this is in any way a substitute for a personal visit. That we must accomplish.

Our thoughts are with you and Russell at this season, and may your health improve under the impetus of your spirit.

Much love from *Jean*

answered
4-3-78

Sunday, April 2, 1978

Dear Blanche:

We were happy to receive your last letter and to know that "never a week goes by without one or two people." Here, it is nature that dominates, and we are still having some rain, with fields shoulder high in grass and flowers.

I failed to see the February article about Tor House, but have spoken with Lee on the telephone once recently, and understand that the future of Tor House is assured, although it may be some months before this prolonged negotiation is absolutely concluded.

About my manuscript, I would not have presumed to trouble Kay Caldwell on that score if she had not assured me last November that she would like to read my reminiscences and wished me good luck with them. Then, of course, she went to China, and we did not correspond again until February of this year, at which time I sent, at her request, a long and extremely interesting letter from her mother to the Huntington Library Collection. (Field - Wood Collection). The 1940 letter shed light on the character of Steinbeck, and on the motives and feelings of Jeffers in accepting the invitation to open the poetry readings at the Congressional Library. He was not enthusiastic, monetary need drove him to it. The letter also reveals the illuminated character of Sara Bard Field. The Huntington was grateful. After this renewal of our correspondence, all of which came about because of your visit here last year, I asked Kay if she would read, or pass on to a reader at the University, my mss. Mother graduated from U.C.B. and Mrs. Wheeler, wife of the president, went to my parent's wedding in Italy.

Receiving a reply in the affirmative, I sent up a Xerox of 133 pages, which Kay was unable to read because, somehow, she lost the mss. - misplaced it, rather, and has not been able to find it. It was sent five weeks ago. I have talked with Kay on the telephone, and realize that she is overwhelmed with many things. I shall have another copy made, but am now uncertain whether I should send it on to

her or not. She seemed to want me too, but I am not sure. You see, I shall soon be asking the librarian at Yale for specific help, and so I had hoped to have had some professional critical word on the ~~ms~~ss. before this. I must do something soon. You said you know someone at Berkeley, and Kay says she thinks it is a Mr. Lilienthal - not the elder one, surely! I wonder if it would trouble you too much to give my predicament a moment of thought - naturally I should not wish Kay to be privy to my doubts. Perhaps, in spite of her friendly protestations, she is just too busy to take on even this chore.

I have completed all but the last three chapters, or rather - four- the three, titled Memoires Polonais, are the most difficult of the whole book, and have to do with Paderewski's last years and conditions within socialist Poland. Mother wanted her part in the scene documented.

Now, Kay said she " would get back to me soon " but that was again five days ago, and time is passing. What should I do?

Jim joins in much affection,

Jean

1000 Mason Street
San Francisco, CA 94108
November 9, 1978

Dear Jean:

Thank you so much for letting us read this remarkable public letter. I have heard it twice now and am twice impressed. I do hope the writer will be successful.

I am sure you left the Valley at the right time and I think you have made a wise choice for a new home. It sounds exactly right and now you have the freedom that you both wanted. And freedom to travel and do so many other things.

Briefly, I will say that I think I am getting better. I am almost afraid to say so, but we are trying new treatment and God willing that this one will be the right one. I will call you up one of these days and try to make up for the poor conversations you have had with me ever since June. I just haven't been up to anything except moaning and groaning. And today, although I have severe pains, the rest of me feels more vigorous and as though I have some life. And this is so important!

I don't know about Tor House. I hope it will not be destroyed. I am sure we have all helped as generously as we can.

I am returning your newspaper clipping because I think perhaps some other people might have the pleasure that we have had in reading

it. I really is quite extraordinary.

Tell Jim I miss him and love him, and I hope to see you both soon.

Devotedly,

Blanche_{nw}

BCM:nw

Enclosure



James B. Underwood

November 28, 1978

Dear Jean and Jim:

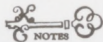
Your visit seems like a mirage but the panatoni has great reality. My it was good. Delicious. The best I have ever eaten. It compares to that of Naples, which claimed to make the best in the world because of the water being used.

I hope Jim is really all right. I felt he was much less than himself while he was here, but Jean seemed on top of the world. Thank you so much for coming. Rosalind so enjoyed seeing you both. Again, thanks for the clippings about Tor House and the panatoni and for the beautiful visit.

Affectionately,

Blanche

BCM:nw



Kristin Elliott

Made in Beverly, Mass., U. S. A.

MRS. RUSSELL J. MATTHIAS
1000 MASON STREET
SAN FRANCISCO 8, CALIFORNIA

For July 16th

Dearest Jean,

It makes me sad to think how our lives are so out of touch. We live scarcely three hours apart, yet we rarely meet. I have been expecting you both to come to San Francisco ever since that splendid lecture which you gave at the Century Club, but I have not heard a word.

Russell is at the Bohemian Grove for his annual vacation but I like to stay home while all the world is seeking something far away from home.

Have you met Edward Groth who lives at the Carmel Valley Manor? He is quite an old man now, but rare. He knows Krishnaje well and is planning to go to Ojai for the Talks. Are you going? I am not certain about my going. It depends upon many things. I want to go. Edward Groth used to live in India. He is writing a book, just finishing it. I wish you would make a little effort to know him if you do not. I think he will interest you.

How is Jim? Please give him my love.

Happy Birthday to you dear Jean, and always my love.

Blanche



May 8, 1980

Morton Beilke
+ Blanch Matthias
at Gleason Library
reception for
Phoebe Barkan's
Jeffers collection

Monday

Oct 6, 1980

Dearest Blanche:

We thought you would want to see the report of the Tor House Festival. We did not attend, but you can infer what a good job Lee and Donnan have done, and how developed and expanded the whole thing has become. In the past we have attended some of the functions in and out of Tor House, but this year we just reflected on the prophetic truth of Jeffers-- as reflected in our present day American society. I suppose history has its own momentum too, but it passes, as Robin said, "like falling rocks."

We send our love,

Jean + Jim -

October 14, 1980

Dear Jean,

Please forgive me for not thanking you long ago for the copy of your mother's book Prelude. I wanted to wait until it was read to me, but I can wait no longer. Nancy has just returned from five weeks in England and Marilyn at the moment is up in Northern California with her husband. Soon we will all be together again and before the holidays snow us under we shall read your mother's book. I thought I had it in my library. I did a long time ago, but it is no longer there and so I am very delighted to have a copy for myself. Thank you, thank you!

This is not a real letter but is sent with my love and hope that you are both fine in health and happy in living.

Thank you again and all my love to you both,

Blanche nw

BCM:nw

Mrs. Russell J. Matthias
1000 Mason St., San Francisco, California 94108

November 26, 1980

Dear Jean:

Thank you so much for the copy of your letter to Father Monihan of November 18. Shortly after he telephoned me. You have made him the happiest of men. I don't remember ever hearing him speak with such enthusiasm and pleasure as he did when he called me up to tell me of your precious gift to the Rare Books Room. It made me very happy, too.

Tomorrow is Thanksgiving and I intended to have this note reach you at Thanksgiving, to wish you the feast of the year, but it didn't get written. But my affection for you and Jim goes to you always. And, again, thank you for being so generous.

Devotedly,

Blanche

BCM:nw

Friday

Jan 9, 1981

Dear Blanche:

First came an unexpected Christmas package in its smart black and white wrapping with a matching little card of a horse and sleigh trotting cheerily through the snow. Inside, the tape of the lecture we were unable to attend. Mr. Beilke has a fine simplicity to temper his sensitivity, and according to Father Monihan leads a rich and varied existence close to the soil. We look forward to listening to this talk at our earliest opportunity. Thank you for your thought of us.

The picture is marvellous--a complete success in every way. Your smile a mixture of love and a kind of intellectual challenge, and all around beautiful spaces and blooming plants. We shall get a little frame for it so you can be in our room at all times and beyond the New Year.

What a year it will be. Reagan has some competent men about him; they will need all their wits. There is such a degraded atmosphere everywhere; it is certainly not time for Morris Graves' birds to wake up yet. He once told me they were asleep waiting for better (spiritual) times--or words to that effect.

We pray that the New Year will bring you many satisfactions in spite of difficult outward vision, the inward one was--and is--always there.

Much love from

Jean + Jim

428 MONROE STREET
MONTEREY
CALIFORNIA 93940

March 5, '81

Dear Blanche:

We were happy to have
your letter of February 19.

Your January 10
celebration of Robin's birthday
was a lovely idea - incorporating
Una's also. I did not know
their birthdays were so nearly
aligned.

The fact that you have
had a great many out-of-
town guests attests to your
well-being.

Unfortunately, about

P.T.O.

a week ago Jim fell
here in The apartment
and hurt his head. He
is alright, though the
trauma set him back
considerably. The cut did
not require stitches, & we
have a good hospital
within a few blocks of
our apartment. He is
coming along very well here
at home - & will soon be
his old self again.

The University of S.F. has
purchased an extra set of my
prints for the L.S., & I have given
them a study for Plate III - All
arranged through a S.F. dealer - Tom Randall
of Randall House. Love from J. J.

File

MS - returned
2/8/82

File of letters returned to Jean
by Nancy Weston following the death
of

428 MONROE STREET
MONTEREY
CALIFORNIA 93940

Blanche Matthias

1/15/82

Dear Blanche:

Jini went down to the copier, so
I am able to send you a few chapters
or "Sketches" of from - hopefully -
a book in progress.

I did not want to send the
Clapp since it needs several changes
& revisions & there are portions
missing - but you can sense the
tone of the thing from this copy -

Characters in the different
Sketches appear in other sketches
so there is some interweaving -

Corrections etc - indicate final
versions not yet achieved -

Must get on with it this
year - Time flies -

Jini joins in love,
Jean -

Tuesday - set copy 57 "Sueina"

Mrs. Russell J. Matthias
1000 Mason St., San Francisco, California 94108

February 8, 1982

Dearest Jean,

We have just finished your manuscripts, and I am enthusiastic and more than that. It's really professional and exciting reading, and of course I was intensely flattered to find our names included in a most friendly fashion. Thank you from Russell and thank you from Blanche.

I am longing to read the rest of the manuscripts. I can hardly wait to find out what you said about Krishnaji. He would be a most difficult subject I would think.

Your articles about Fimmie and Maud are superb. They become vividly alive, as I remember them. No one else has written of them in so successful a way, as far as I know. And the woodpile sketch of Jeffers is so right! I am proud of you. This is just what you should write. I liked Erik Barker's sketch, too, even though I never met him, I feel he comes to life. And I am so happy that you included Susan Porter and her conversation with Leger. I think it is extraordinary that you remembered the conversation so well. You bring so many of my dear friends back to life that I am intensely grateful.

Someday you should do a sketch of you and Jim...
call it Jean and Jim, or Jim and Jean.

I can't wait now to have your book published.
I was just thinking how many copies I am going
to give away, so don't wait too long!

I am enclosing your manuscripts, and please,
please send the rest to me.

With much love, and
my congratulations
and admiration,

Blanche

BC":mg

p.s. Another copy of "In No Small Measure"
enclosed to replace one you did not receive.
Wish you could have been with us that day!

March 1, 1982

Dearest Blanche:

I was sorry not to have been able to answer your lovely letter with its handsome enclosure before this. Now, I can write to say that we treasure the Tribute--so well deserved. The quotation from Jeffers is, of course, the key to the whole thing; and it was splendid of Marlan Beilke to print those hundred copies of which ours is #35. After we have enjoyed it for ^hawhile, I'll send it on to our collection at Yale.

Your encouraging remarks about the writing were truly appreciated, since confidence flags at times ^{such as} in any self-appointed task ~~like~~ like this one. I have now about ten of a projected 16 or 17, so will see an agent I know ~~here~~ before long to talk about future possibilities. Harper and Rowe is now in San Francisco, and there are other more modest possibilities. So we shall see! In meantime, I plod along.

Herewith you will find new, not finished, pieces or sketches, as I prefer to call them. You will note another conversation--the only other one I intend to include. There is some poetic license here, as you will see, but I do know that Mrs. Eugene Meyer remembered

the encounter with my father all her life, and wrote an abbreviated version of it for mother, which I still have. I think she would be pleased if the thing should see the light. After you have had it read, please

remember that Krishnaji once told me there was "some

~~this is~~ scientifically correct if only from point of view of energy form of continuity." This after I related to him an ~~Conservation~~

experience I had when my mother died. He said to me:

"Did you see that?" As you know, he was so anxious to wipe out the 'waiting for Karma' idea in India that he went out of his way to dwell on the 'ending' of things--which, of couse, is also perfectly correct.

^{your}
Hope ~~the~~ reader can get past a few major corrections.

It is good to know you are all right. Jim is, too, and is revising a dog story that revolves around the search for a dinosaur bone. It is really very good.

Much love from us both,

Jean

April 20, 1982

Dear Jean,

Forgive me for keeping your manuscripts for so long, but at long last I am sending them back to you, with my deep thanks for sharing them with me.

I have read the Weston sketch two times, and a little bit oftener in particular parts. I like it so much. However, I took the liberty of making a few suggestions--more because of my training than for any other reason. Ignore them if you wish. Of course, someone has to read these to me, and we discuss as we go along. The young woman who originally read the Weston sketch is a highly educated person...her father is a writer and her mother a painter, so she was profoundly interested. Most of the little pencilled marks are hers. Marilyn and I read one part of the manuscript this morning, and we discussed it, too. All three of us think it is very, very good. Of course, having known Weston so well I was deeply moved, especially by the last few pages. Very good writing, I think...especially your journal entry. Just one thought, Jean: I wonder whether you might want to delete that comment on an earlier page about your mental illness. Read it again, and see what you think. Do you really want to say it, and if so, why?

Somehow, I did not enjoy the Bliss sketch so much as I expected to. However, I'm sure it might mean more to other people.

About Agnes Meyer: although I had met her through you and found her interesting, I did not feel your sketch was as moving as I expected. Also, I question the way you describe her as she grew older. I find that unnecessary. I don't

mean you should confine yourself to what is beautiful, but I do not feel the description of Mrs. Meyer as she grew older added to the sketch in any way, and it detracted from the memory of her as a forceful, radiant and beautiful personality. I do not feel that you need to demote her as you have done. Of course, this is just my personal opinion, and may not meet the goal you have of describing her accurately. I very much enjoyed the conversation between Mrs. Meyer and your father. It is quite superb, and you have done that part so well.

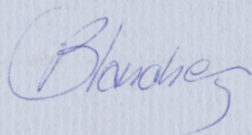
I'm eager to know of the other sketches you are doing, especially the one on Krishnamurti. So please don't disappoint me. I promise to send them back sooner.

I hope this is adequate. I'm still suffering from an unpleasant and heavy cold, and my mind is somewhat distracted because I have to blow my nose so often.

Hope you are both well and happy. I send you both my love and devotion.

I'm going to send you also the little journal Krishnamurti wrote which was just published. I think it is his best writing.

With so much love and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Blanche", with a stylized, flowing script.

BCM:mg

428 Monroe Street
Monterey, Ca. 93940

April 21, 1982

Dearest Blanche:

Just today the mailman brought your wonderful letter and returned scripts. Those latter were in a rough stage, and all your suggestions can be acted upon, after I have time to go over everything carefully. That time will come after I finish the second of two you have not seen; ^{that} ~~one~~ deals with Paderewski and my father.

I was so grateful to your kind reader for the pencilled corrections on the Weston piece. Those little things make all the difference to any editor. Then you say that Marilyn (who wrote the letter) also read part of the Weston piece. I am certainly lucky to have an audience ahead of time! There is so much to do yet, but hope to see most accomplished by the end of the year.

We were distressed to learn that you had had a "heavy cold," The incredible weather must have had something to do with it. And now it is unseasonably warm, but I hope you feel renewed energy.

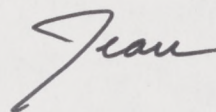
Jim gave a little speech the other night over at the College about Ub Eivorks, the Dutch animator

who drew Disney's most important characters and more or less invented Mickey Mouse. Ub and Disney met when they were teen-agers in St. Louis, and their destinies were intertwined ever after. Jim drew a few cartoons and his touch is as good as ever, but he was handicapped by a smaller board than he would have liked, and it wobbled too--so he had to steady it with his left hand and draw with his right! Quite a feat--

I did not know you knew Weston so well, so am pleased you liked my reminiscence. I'll certainly try and polish it up. On rereading the Bliss piece I think I can make it more vivid and personal, and give more flavor in less space. Or perhaps just stick to the garden and make it more alive. It is a marvellous place.

Will send you another piece soon.

Jim joins me in so much love and we expect and pray that this good weather will make itself felt even indoors. It does here.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jean".

I would be so happy to have the new Krishnamurti Journal. Many thanks for your thoughtfulness.

May 7, 1982

Dearest Jean,

The manuscript about your father, Hoover and Paderewski is most intriguing. We read it with great interest. There is one paragraph that didn't seem quite clear, and I believe that is indicated, but the whole thing is fascinating, and you have done it very well. I'm sure it will make quite a sensation if published. It is so timely.

I enjoyed the story about Adriani. I did not know them well, but I had a great admiration for him. I believe I remember her. I feel it is not as well done in a writing sense. For instance, when you were in his study that first time, I was not able to follow the movement. Re-read it, and see if I'm wrong.

I'm now so eager for the next one to come. Thank you for letting me participate.

Give my special love to Jim, and ask him to give you my special love.

Blanche

BCM:mg

Answered - 5/17/82

answered
6-22-82

May 17, 1982

Dear Blanche:

Once again I owe you many thanks for a good letter and criticism - so much appreciated. Your reader, too, has been of great help in suggesting changes in details of proper presentation.

I am taking the liberty of returning a rewrite of The Collectors. - one or two deletions, ~~my~~ additions, & a clarification of the study scene - plus a little more attention to detail may have improved the piece. I should be glad to know if you think so. I should not like to write poorly about such a scholar!

The ~~best~~ ^{latest} piece is laid in the east - far from Carmel.

Have been a bit tired & slowed down, but am determined to get it all ~~it~~ in order this year. There are four more pieces to come -
(over)

Merle Armitage - Krishnamurti -
Jim + mother. The 2 difficult
ones are Krishnamurti + mother.
I hope to be able to do yourself
some justice in the Krishnamurti
piece - since you introduced me
to him at Peter Pan - + a
depiction will be in order.

I was dismayed the other day
to find my chosen title already
used by Lewis Mumford in his
new autobiography - SKETCHES FROM LIFE
- I could hardly believe it - But Jim has
come to the rescue. I just couldn't
give up "sketches" for I am an artist -
+ so James suggested "SKETCHES OF
OTHER LIVES" which may be even
better for my purposes. 'Do you think so?

Father Monihan called to say he
will come by here on the 24th. Perhaps
he will have news of yourself.
We both send our love - Jean.

Meyer
Chinese

Mrs. Russell J. Matthias
1000 Mason St., San Francisco, California 94108

June 22, 1982

Dear Jean:

Sorry to have kept this so long.

I think Jim's suggestion of Sketches of Other Lives is very good for your book.

I too think The Collectors is better although I still do not like it as well as some of your previous articles. I don't exactly know why I don't. I knew the Adrianis slightly and admired them. He seems to me to have had as part of his makeup the warm but austere German character. I admired him as a collector but do not feel I had any personal contact.

Regarding Westbrook Weekend, I suggest that you add the year to "one Saturday afternoon," in the very first line.

The material in Westbrook Weekend is fascinating. I found I wanted to know more about Mrs. Cutting. I felt it was more like a prelude to a possible long history of a fascinating era, of fascinating people. I also wanted to know more of what you did during the weekend. Did you all dine together, etc., etc. I think

it is one of the most interesting of your
biographies, but feel it could be a little
bit more disclosive.

Congratulations and let me have more.

Much love to you and Jim,

Blanchen

BCM:nw

Look up B. Cutting - Who's Who - 1935
for plane crash.

428 Monroe Street
Monterey
California 93940

July 3, 1982

Dear Blanche:

I said to Jim recently that all this sending of manuscripts was really an imposition--but that your goodwill and wise counsel kept leading me on!

So I thank you so much for your recent comments, and herewith are two more pieces. I hope to do the one on Krishnamurti in August, after spending July rewriting and correcting three of four of the others. That means that this fall I can have things put in shape and letters of query sent out, and do the remaining two sketches at my leisure.

The condition of the American economy is such that it would be a brave publisher who would take on a MS with the specialized appeal of my effort. But one can only try. There are always the University Presses and an occasional "serious" house.

We note that you are a patron--or sponsor--of the upcoming Symposium on Chinese Landscape Painting at the University of San Francisco. A truly fascinating and immortal subject.

We hope your health continues steady. We know your spirit does.

Jim joins in much love,

Jean

August 6, 1982

Dear Jean:

Goodness, I am sorry that these manuscripts have not been returned to you before now. They were ready a long time ago and I thought they had gone to you. I am so sorry.

On page 11 of the Armitage story, I think you should refer to Timmy Clapp as Frederick Mortimer Clapp. Also on page 11, I think you should say where you were coming from, for the sake of clarity and continuity.

Otherwise, I think they are excellent and I congratulate you with all my heart.

I think the enclosed pamphlet may interest you. Rosalind Rajagopal sent me a number of them and asked me to distribute them, so here is one for you and Jim. I find it very interesting.

My love to both of you.

Affectionately,

P.S. Father Monihan is celebrating his 50th anniversary as a Jesuit. There have been several parties and other events. I am sure he will be worn out when it's over.

7/20/82

Dearest Blanche:

I hope Nancy Weston gave you my message about the book you so thoughtfully sent me for yet another birthday.

Jim started reading it in the mornings, & when I get my evening respite, I select certain portions of this extraordinary Chronicle to read. The characters are vivid & stand out from the vast tapestry painted by Shoumatoff. I especially like Hania & am much interested in the Mopsy's talent. The book is very revealing of the character of the so-called (over)

"White Russian" and of the era
of upheaval following World War I.
Naturally, I envy the writer his
ability. We have the New Yorker,
& have met him before.

We hope you had a
pleasant day on the 16th -
& that the summer will
be a relaxing one - if that
is possible. As Krishnamurti
once wrote me - "Life is a
constant struggle whether one
likes it or not." There was more
to it - but I'll save it for my
sketch which I hope to write
in August. So much love -
from us both - Jean -

Mrs. Russell J. Matthias
1000 Mason Street, San Francisco, California 94108

August 6, 1982

Dear Jean:

Goodness, I am sorry that these manuscripts have not been returned to you before now. They were ready a long time ago and I thought they had gone to you. I am so sorry.

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My love to both of you.

Affectionately,

Blanchen

P.S. Father Monihan is celebrating his 50th anniversary as a Jesuit. There have

PTO

several parties and other events. I am sure
he will be worn out when it's over.

B.C.M.

1957-1958

Goodness, I am sorry that these
scripts have not been returned to you before
now. They were ready a long time ago and I
thought they had gone to you. I am so sorry.

In page 11 of the script, I think
you should refer to "The Class of 1957" as
"The Class of 1958". Also on page 11, I think you
should say where you were coming from, for the
sake of clarity and continuity.

Otherwise, I think they are excellent and
I congratulate you with all my heart.

I think the enclosed should be of interest
to you. I called "The Class of 1958" and
then and asked me to distribute them, so here is
one for you and one for you and one for you and one
for you.

I have to close for now.

Affectionately,

... Father, when is celebration day 1958
celebration day is a holiday. There have

428 Monroe Street
Monterey, Ca. 93940

September 12, 1982

Dear Blanche;

You must have wondered what had happened to the Krishnamurti sketch. I just seem to get slower and slower, and this one was difficult. There was a lot that had to be left out--that would be O.K. in the inevitable biographies that will come after his death. I purposely avoided the painful break with the Rajagopals and the subsequent history--only briefly alluding to it. Then there were some personal questions (on his part) best left aside, and so as all these sketches are--this one is incomplete. However, as far as I am concerned, the picture sketches the main lines. Perhaps you will find it too long--and I wonder about the part beginning on page 19 in Columbo, leading to mention of the Buddha. Historically it is important though, and sometimes there are things in a person's youth, passed over later, but pertinent to history.

To your reader--Nancy Weston, I presume--I apologize for the frequent corrections, and call attention to the blue-pencilled blanks, hoping that you, yourself, can fill them in from memory. If not, we can get around such omissions of fact.

Yes, I am somewhat slowed down, and now that the goal is in sight, Jim is going to give me a few days vacation south, ~~of here~~ where the weather is a little warmer, although lately we have had fine days in Monterey. So no hurry to return MS. until you have taken time to think it over. I do appreciate that, especially this time; and would ask what you think of a brief preface I have sketched out. Wish you could have written it!

Well, I just hope this thing may see the light before our next birthday--or at least look promising. Time slides by, and doesn't seem to matter much any more. But the world needs to hurry up and do better, don't you think?

Jim sends lots of love, and adds his thanks to mine.

Jean

September 30, 1982

Dear Jean,

The Krishnamurti you knew way back in the forties is no longer the Krishnamurti of today, and I wonder if you want to give him a position which he no longer possesses. He told me recently that when he was in Ceylon this last year that at least 7,000 people called him "The New Buddha." He said, "They kissed my clothes and followed me," He said he was quite overcome. And then again what happened to him in New York City--I'm sure you've seen the wonderful article the New York Times wrote about him.

I think you ought to make mention of these extraordinary events, because you're doing a portrait of Krishnamurti and the things that are happening to him now make him a different human being than the early days when you knew him.

You are not doing a reminiscence, as I understand it, but a "portrait." I may be wrong--this may be just a reminiscence, but the strong Krishnamurti is not evidenced. I think your reminiscences are very good, although, as you say, not complete, but the Krishnamurti of today is so different. You know, don't you, that he is going to talk here in February? I hope you and Jim will come up for the talks. I'll send you the information on the dates and so forth as soon as I get it.

Aside from the above thought, we have made a few suggestions on a separate page, keyed to your draft. They are just for you to observe and think about if you want to. If not, just forget them. Please do not hesitate to question me about any of my observations if you wish to. I really do feel your Krishnamurti portrait needs to be pulled together, so it doesn't jump so confusingly around in time and tense. Please send me a second draft when you have done a little more work on it. I'd really like to see what you do with it

Hindu

sannyāsin

The final stage of
homeless wandering

The purified soul
liberated from all
worldly ties —

I am very eager to see your whole book in production. I think it is a very good idea, and that you will have many good responses to it.

With much love to you and Jim,

Blanche

BCM:mg

p.s. I think the preface could be reworked, and perhaps be more alive than it is.

✓ A. Maybe it would be better to just say "school" instead of "Happy Valley School." In describing Ojai, maybe it would be helpful to mention that the name means "nest", and that it is a small valley with beautiful mountains surrounding it. It is NOT on the Pacific shore, as a misinterpretation might lead one to think.

✓ B. Krishnamurti never wanders. Perhaps "suddenly appeared and stood quietly among the Oaks..." Anything but "wanders!"

✓ C. Instead of "perceived," would "thought of" be better?

✓ D. What does "Meanwhile..." mean, as used here?

✓ E. Delete "leader." He still does assume the role of leader. Why "headliner???"

✓ F.. Yes, a paragraph here would be helpful. You are on two different time plains.

✓ G. This quote has been criticized by people saying that Krishnamurti says there should be no thinking. I don't think it's a good quote to use.

✓ H. Yes, I think "early forties" is accurate.

✓ I. As I remember it, the Frederick Mortimer Clapps never went to Ojai. They heard Krishnamurti talk in New York.

✓ J. No, Russell never went to the talks. Please delete.

✓ K. I don't think your judgment of the little painting adds to the story.

✓ L. Same date, early forties. Perhaps you could say something like "Peter Pan Lodge was a small inn in the highlands above Carmel. It was run by a woman dedicated to humanity. Her name was Caroline Rickett, but she preferred being called "Wendy." Your mother's Polish Relief work, interesting as it is, seems to detract from the continuity of thought.

M. More accurately: "Walt Kuhn, the painter, ^{had} introduced Blanche Matthias to Alfred Steiglitz, who then asked her to visit his famous Gallery 291 in New York. During this visit Steiglitz brought Georgia O'Keeffe into the gallery and the two women met...." By the way, I was writing for the Hearst paper in Chicago at that time.

N. Russell was a Chicago businessman, NOT New York.

O. In Ojai about 1928. At Aryavihara.

P. Just saying "picked it up" is so much simpler than calling the brush an "implement."

Q. You should make a connection between being in your room having the brush handed back to you and walking on the country road. Just something as simple as "Then K. and I left the inn and started down the road.....etc." Such connections throughout would help eliminate jumpiness, which can be confusing to the reader.

R. Fragrance is so much nicer a word than odor, I think.

S. You might say, "When we arrived at my studio, K. looked at a few of the marines I was painting ~~at~~ that time, and then pointedly inquired....."

T. This John Muir quote, while lovely, seems distracting.

U. A connecting link, like "Some weeks afterward, when K., etc....." would help.

V. Maybe if you added, "at Aryavihara" after in the study, it would help the reader to realize where it is that you are talking about.

W. Jean, are you sure you want to say all this?????

XX. Some space after this statement, which forms the basis for your title, would add emphasis, as well as separation from your next movement in time.

~~Y.~~ Y. Maybe this could be condensed a bit. dWe've been jumping around to too many places.

Z. I know you just overlooked putting in footnote (5).

A1. Jean, I understand Krishnaji said several times he

would like to destroy all the poems he had written,,
that they do not say what he feels today. Use your
own judgment.

B2. This suggests that I did not go to the Krishnamurti
talks. I went to every one of them.

428 Monroe Street
Monterey
California 93940

October 17, 1982

Dear Blanche:

Once again I am so very much in your debt. We had been away for a two week's rest, and on our return I find your faithful letter and criticism of the Krishnamurti sketch. An alphabet of technical and thoughtful suggestions is most gratefully received. Especially, I am so glad to have more accurate information about yourself and Russell in this whole picture. Very exciting about Walt Kuhn--one of my favorite painters of that period. Will use all you say.

In the larger view, I shall make some major changes. (One or two smaller questions I can explain my way, perhaps.) I certainly am in no position to paint a word portrait of this very great man, and shall shorten and tighten the piece so that there is no doubt that it is only a reminiscence. ~~Then~~ At the same time I shall try to eliminate the jumpiness you refer to by using better and clearer transitions.

You said I might remark to you on some (of my) observations that you find questionable. Naturally, after so many years, Krishnamurti is a much stronger man than when I knew him. However in 1955, when I had my important interview, he was fifty-eight years old, and presumably a mature thinker. Before doing the sketch I reread much of an important book, The Awakening of Intelligence, which was published in 1973. I found there--or thought I found--some support for the standpoints that first attracted me to Krishnamurti: that he preferred to point out rather than to lead** "I have made this fairly clear, haven't I? Don't follow anybody and don't accept anybody as a teacher, except when you yourself become your own teacher and disciple." That "it is thought, not intelligence, which dominates the world; as always the intellectual gave him trouble, unable to see directly his meaning. (But I shall consider your objection to the quote I used in this connection, and substitute some definition of intelligence?)

So perhaps will skip all reference to the Buddha, old ones or new. It is understandable that he should be 'overcome' and happy in his old age that the significance of his revelation should be appreciated. I always thought that the minute he rejected Mrs. Besant's 'Messiah' role, he was free to be the creative person that Divine Nature produces at intervals in the race history--"the growing tip

of the race", as Mary Austin characterized genius. However, I came to think of Krishnamurti as the artist in life he said he was in the old days; to preserve my title and my connection with aesthetics I think I should leave it that way. I can see why you would wish things brought more up to date, but there will be many experienced writers and serious biographers who will better be able to assess the whole life.

Although Krishnamurti assured me that no one was indispensable in this life, I certainly feel his help was indispensable to me, and I should like to do justice to that fact. A rewrite will be in order as soon as I have had time to catch up with things here.

That you still believe in the book is most heartening, and I am tremendously grateful for your encouragement.

Jim joins in a great deal of love. We hope you keep as well as your spirit would wish.

Jean.

October 21, 1982

Dear Mrs. Dickie:

Mrs. Matthias has been in the hospital for over two weeks but I took your letter of October 17 and read it to her. She found it very interesting and will dictate a reply soon.

We expect Mrs. Matthias to return home within a few days. She is recovering well from an infection, and please don't worry about her.

She sends her love to you both.

Sincerely,

Secretary

nw

Sunday

Nov 1982

Dearest Blanche:

Just a word to say we are so distressed you have had this setback in health, and to cheer you on in your convalescence. The nurse told us that you were safely home, but not as yet feeling your old self. An infection is so weakening and does take time to heal. We know you have the best of care, and an indomitable spirit. Our hearts are with you.

I have tried to incorporate all your suggestions in the Krishnamurti rewrite, and have relocated passages, and shortened it by several pages . So hope it will be smoother and more concise. Please give no more thought to anything literary, and when you are better, will send it on.

In meantime, lots of love from your

Jean + Jim

and please get well soon.

April 20, 1982

Dear Jean,

Forgive me for keeping your manuscripts for so long, but at long last I am sending them back to you, with my deep thanks for sharing them with me.

I have read the Weston sketch two times, and a little bit oftener in particular parts. I like it so much. However, I took the liberty of making a few suggestions--more because of my training than for any other reason. Ignore them if you wish. Of course, someone has to read these to me, and we discuss as we go along. The young woman who originally read the Weston sketch is a highly educated person...her father is a writer and her mother a painter, so she was profoundly interested. Most of the little pencilled marks are hers. Marilyn and I read one part of the manuscript this morning, and we discussed it, too. All three of us think it is very, very good. Of course, having known Weston so well I was deeply moved, especially by the last few pages. Very good writing, I think...especially your journal entry. Just one thought, Jean: I wonder whether you might want to delete that comment on an earlier page about your mental illness. Read it again, and see what you think. Do you really want to say it, and if so, why?

Somehow, I did not enjoy the Bliss sketch as much as I expected to. However, I'm sure it might mean more to other people.

About Agnes Meyer: although I had met her through you and found her interesting, I did not feel your sketch was as moving as I expected. Also, I question the way you describe her as she grew older. I find that unnecessary. I don't

mean you should confine yourself to what is beautiful, but I do not feel the description of Mrs. Meyer as she grew older added to the sketch in any way, and it detracted from the memory of her as a forceful, radiant and beautiful personality. I do not feel that you need to demote her as you have done. Of course, this is just my personal opinion, and may not meet the goal you have of describing her accurately. I very much enjoyed the conversation between Mrs. Meyer and your father. It is quite superb, and you have done that part so well.

I'm eager to know of the other sketches you are doing, especially the one on Krishnamurti. So please don't disappoint me. I promise to send them back sooner.

I hope this is adequate. I'm still suffering from an unpleasant and heavy cold, and my mind is somewhat distracted because I have to blow my nose so often.

Hope you are both well and happy. I send you both my love and devotion.

I'm going to send you also the little journal Krishnamurti wrote which was just published. I think it is his best writing.

With so much love and gratitude

Blanche

BCM:mg

428 Monroe Street
Monterey
California 93940

October 17, 1982

Dear Blanche:

Once again I am so very much in your debt. We had been away for a two week's rest, and on our return I find your faithful letter and criticism of the Krishnamurti sketch. An alphabet of technical and thoughtful suggestions is most gratefully received. Especially, I am so glad to have more accurate information about yourself and Russell in this whole picture. Very exciting about Walt Kuhn--one of my favorite painters of that period. Will use all you say.

In the larger view, I shall make some major changes. (One or two smaller questions I can explain my way, perhaps.) I certainly am in no position to paint a word portrait of this very great man, and shall shorten and tighten the piece so that there is no doubt that it is only a reminiscence. ~~Then~~ At the same time I shall try to eliminate the jumpiness you refer to by using better and clearer transitions.

You said I might remark to you on some (of my) observations that you find questionable. Naturally, after so many years, Krishnamurti is a much stronger man than when I knew him. However in 1955, when I had my important interview, he was fifty-eight years old, and presumably a mature thinker. Before doing the sketch I reread much of an important book, The Awakening of Intelligence, which was published in 1973. I found there--or thought I found--some support for the standpoints that first attracted me to Krishnamurti: that he preferred to point out rather than to lead-- "I have made this fairly clear, haven't I? Don't follow anybody and don't accept anybody as a teacher, except when you yourself become your own teacher and disciple." That it is thought, not intelligence, which dominates the world; as always the intellectual gave him trouble, unable to see directly his meaning. (But I shall consider your objection to the quote I used in this connection, and substitute some definition of intelligence?)

So perhaps will skip all reference to the Buddha, old ones or new. It is understandable that he should be 'overcome' and ~~happy in his old age that the significance of his~~ revelation should be appreciated. ~~significance of his~~ That the minute he rejected Mrs. Besant's 'Messiah' role, he was free to be the creative person that Divine Nature produces at intervals in the race history--the growing tip

of the race", as Mary Austin characterized genius. However, I came to think of Krishnamurti as the artist in life he said he was in the old days; to preserve my title and my connection with aesthetics I think I should leave it that way. I can see why you would wish things brought more up to date, but there will be many experienced writers and serious biographers who will better be able to assess the whole life.

Although Krishnamurti assured me that no one was indispensable in this life, I certainly feel his help was indispensable to me, and I should like to do justice to that fact. A rewrite will be in order as soon as I have had time to catch up with things here.

That you still believe in the book is most heartening, and I am tremendously grateful for your encouragement.

Jim joins in a great deal of love. We hope you keep as well as your spirit would wish.

Jean



Dear Jean-
yon letter.
so Radha.
sent to Krishnamurthi's
29. Park
"muddlesij
forward"
still tender

LES ÉDITIONS NOMIS, PARIS. PRINTED IN FRANCE.
Albert A. LAMPL Sole Distributor for U.S.A. Philadelphia 43, Pa.
Reproduction réservée. Syndicat de la Propriété Artistique.

May 26th.

Many thanks for
Krishnamurthi's address
tells me is safe if
Krishnamurthi's Writings. 1915.
Lane. Wembley
London. (Mark
my libris on
and fresh.
Love
Blanche.